

Radon in Rental Housing

A Serious Hidden Danger to Family Health

Radon Tipsheet #11



September 2011



Renting a home with high radon levels is a major risk for lung cancer.

Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer. Any home, including rental housing, can have a radon problem. It doesn't matter if it's old or new, or where it's located. High levels of radon gas occur naturally in Maine soil and water, and can move up into a house from the ground. The house then traps the radon in the air inside.

The only way to know if a home has a problem is to test. Landlords in Maine are required to test their rental properties for radon by March 1, 2014. This tipsheet can help you understand how radon testing in rental housing works.

About Radon Testing in Rental Housing

Maine requires landlords to test all residential rental properties by March 1, 2014, and re-test every 10 years.

Simple air tests can show whether radon levels are safe. Only registered radon testers can conduct a radon test. They will put radon test devices in the building, usually in the basement or in ground floor units. Sometimes they will test units on other floors.

What Tenants Need to Do

- Do not touch, move, cover or otherwise interfere with the testing devices.
- For 12 hours before, and all during the test, keep windows and doors closed, except for normal entry and exit.
- **IMPORTANT:** If the test is not done the right way it must be done again, **costing time and money for the landlord and tenant.**
- Your landlord must show you the results for your residence. If your residence was not tested, you will get the results from the basement or the highest result found in your building.

About High Radon Levels

A radon concentration of 4 pCi/l (picocuries per liter) or above is a high radon level. If there is a high radon level in your building, your landlord must get the problem fixed within six months.

Only registered radon reduction contractors, called radon mitigators, can fix high radon levels in rental housing. Radon mitigators can install the proper system to make sure that your home and all the others in your building, have safe radon levels.

Radon treatment systems work well to bring the level down to safer levels, no matter how high the levels are to start.

Follow-Up Testing

Once your building has a radon mitigation system, there will be another radon test and there may be periodic re-tests to make sure the system is working. In addition, landlords must conduct a re-test of the building every 10 years.

Protect your family. Learn. Test. Treat if needed.

- Check this website: www.MaineRadiationControl.org
- For advice: **1-800-232-0842 • radon.dhhs@maine.gov • TTY: 800-606-0215**



Paul R. LePage, Governor

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